



Delta Diablo Sanitation District

6/5/07 Bd Mtg ITEM 7
IRWM Rnd. 2 Guidelines
Deadline: 5/31/07 Noon

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May 24, 2007

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Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Mr. Scott Couch
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE FOR IRWMP
IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS, ROUND 2

Dear Ms. Billington and Mr. Couch:

The Delta Diablo Sanitation District (District), a participant in the East Contra Costa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (EC IRWMP), offers the following comments on the Public Review Draft of the IRWM Grant Program Proposal Solicitation Package for Implementation Grants, Round 2.

We would like to inform both DWR and SWRCB of the difficulties that project sponsors face due to receiving only a fraction of the funds anticipated at the start of the program. Local commitments were made towards IRWM projects years ago, and scarce local sources must be turned to again for additional funding. These local sources, however, force local agencies to compete with many short term government priorities; including transportation, education, housing, et cetera. With the remaining Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funds for Northern California limited and no specific allotment of IRWM funds under Proposition 84 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (which straddles the Bay Area and San Joaquin funding regions), the prospect of obtaining additional funding for water and wastewater in this critical region within a reasonable timeframe is bleak.

The District's Recycled Water Projects, in particular, can be constructed on very short timeframes and provide numerous benefits - but they simply cannot proceed without successful local, regional, state, and federal partnerships. The most significant challenge in facilitating full project funding through these various sources is timing. A six month construction project simply cannot be postponed for years waiting on grant evaluations, particularly when funding awards have already been made that have competing deadlines for implementation.

Because the State has decided to proceed with an expedited Round 2 of Proposition 50 Chapter 8, rather than proceeding to implementation of the Proposition 84 IRWM program, the District intends to pursue funding for its remaining high-priority, short term projects while this Proposition 50 window of opportunity remains open.

Ms. Tracie Billington & Mr. Scott Couch


May 24, 2007

COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE FOR IRWMP IMPLEMENTATION
GRANTS, ROUND 2

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The District is strongly supportive of the State's programs encouraging the development and implementation of IRWMPs, and we look forward to working with you as IRWM grant programs are further developed. Please feel free to contact me at (925) 756-1920 if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

 FOR G. W. DARLING

Gary W. Darling
General Manager

MH/GWD:mh

cc: East Contra Costa County IRWMP Partners
District File
Chron File